



# E-NEWSLETTER

## STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume XXXV, Number 3, July 2015

Chatham image by Alan Zirkle

### *President's Pen*

Now that the hot days of summer are upon us, and everyone has forgotten how, not so long ago, they wished it would hurry and warm up, I can't help but think back to growing up at Coal Landing. We had a rope swing in a sycamore tree that grew right on the bank of Aquia Creek. The tree stood just a few feet from the old stone quay and we could swing out and drop into the water. We spent most of the summer swimming in the creek and I felt as comfortable in the water as a fish. I didn't realize then just how historic the old stone wharf was but often marveled at the massive size of the stone blocks from which it was built. It is one of my most cherished memories of growing up in Stafford.

We had a grand visit to Locust Grove for our May meeting. It is a lovely old home with much history and Joadie Chaplin was a most gracious hostess. Thanks, Joadie, for welcoming us into your beautiful home.

Jeff Rouse, a three-time gold and one-time silver Olympic medalist, gave a very interesting presentation at our June meeting. I did not know until then that he is related to several of Stafford's old families. [See Feature Article.]

Hope to see you all at our annual “picnic” at Belmont. I’m not sure what our menu will be but I did find George Washington’s menu for the very first Independence Day on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1776 in the *Free Lance* edition of April 18, 1907 as follows:

Leg of mutton	5s 3d
Loyn of veal	7s
Roasting piece of beef	6s 6d
Cabbage, beets, and beans	5s 6d
Peas	2s
Potatoes	2s
Blackfish and lobster	5s 8d

Thank all of you for your continuing support of our Society.

*Ric MacGregor, President*

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### **Important Notices to Members:**

**Successful Electronic Dissemination of our E-Newsletter requires that we have your current and accurate E-mail Address or that we are made aware of your specific lack of access to a Computer. Contact Jane Conner ([janeconner123@aol.com](mailto:janeconner123@aol.com)) or Doris McAdams ([dmac200592@msn.com](mailto:dmac200592@msn.com))**

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#### *Feature Article:*

### **STAFFORD OLYMPIAN JEFF ROUSE SPEAKS TO SOCIETY**

Multi-Gold Medalist Jeff Rouse, one of the remarkable trio of Stafford Olympians (the other two being Conrad Adams and the late Mark Lenzi) from Stafford High School and who went on to Olympic careers, spoke at the June 16, 2015, Stafford County Historical Society meeting at the county government center.

In addition to discussing his participation in two Olympics -- an exceptionally rare achievement in its own right in swimming -- and showing a film clip of one of his most memorable backstroke races, Jeff provided the audience with touching reminiscences of growing up in Stafford, his family's key role in his early swimming development, his collegiate swimming and academic career at Stanford University in California, and his living here now in Argyle Heights. He mentioned that on his mother's side of the family he's related to Stafford Pattons and Monroes. He also generously shared one of his Olympic Gold medals from the Barcelona, Spain games with the audience. He discussed both its unique and standard features.



*Stafford Olympian Jeff Rouse with one of his gold-medals at the June 2015 Society meeting.*

From the Stafford perspective, the most moving portions of his talk dealt with his early Stafford years, early swimming experiences -- his mother and father and family friends took him to Quantico (which had an Olympic-sized pool) at 4:30 a.m. for practices before beginning a "normal" school day -- and his decision to return to live here.

Jeff, who served as Stafford's first director of tourism, is currently a banker with Wells Fargo. He also gives motivational talks to youth swimming teams.

### **Our Next Two Meetings**

**Our 2015 Meetings will continue to highlight Stafford's amazing history..."through the senses." Bring your friends and don't miss a single talk! SPECIAL TIMES, DATES AND FEATURES ARE CAPITALIZED.**

**Thursday, August 20, 2015 at 7:30 PM at Stafford's George Gordon Government Center. A Power Point talk by historian Al Conner on "Civil War Food: See, Hear about, and Taste." SPECIAL REFRESHMENTS WILL BE A SAMPLING OF CIVIL WAR DESSERTS.**

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2015 AT MONCURE CONWAY HOUSE GROUNDS. NINTH ANNUAL LIVING HISTORY EVENT, " ' YANKEES IN FALMOUTH!' (AND CONFEDERATES TOO!)." Schedule will be sent and handed-out separately.**

## New Members

We welcome the following new members: Mary and Adam Hawkins; Michael and Sue Forbey; Amy G. Campbell; and Michael Pollaci. Thanks for your commitment to Stafford's history!

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### Untold Stories of Stafford's Civil War "New" Stafford Civil War Faces, Places, Artifacts, Names and Stories

Our substantial Stafford History Digital Archives have continued to grow. We're spending more time and effort researching the images, which will play a significant part in Stafford Museum displays and films.

### John Howard Skinker: Stafford's Union Spy by Albert Z. Conner Jr.

Before and during America's Civil War, Stafford County, Virginia, was almost unanimously pro-secession. As can be best determined from the record, overt Unionists could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

One of the most improbable of Stafford's Civil War stories is that of Union spy John Howard Skinker of "Oakley" on Poplar Road (now VA Route 616) in Stafford's Hartwood District. A slaveholder and planter (generally meaning he had more than 20 slaves), he reportedly loved America and the Union more than secessionist Stafford, Virginia, and the new Confederate nation. Reference to his equally great love of the Constitution, in the context of those times, probably meant he was a War or Union Democrat politically.



*Figure 1: The remains of "Oakley" lasted until the creation of the Oakley Reserve residential development. Unable to stabilize the remains, they were taken down and placed on the ash-heap of history. "Oakley," especially in its final throes, may suggest a rude, unremarkable country farm house; but historian Jerrilynn Eby (MacGregor) illuminates that it was once part of the vast Robert "King" Carter colonial holdings and it remained an over 1,000 acre place until the mid-1850s.*

Intelligence work -- especially clandestine operations and counterintelligence -- can be vague, difficult and confusing to understand even in modern contexts. Understanding them at the historic distance of 150 years is even more problematic. Civil War human intelligence collectors went by a variety of imprecise titles, such as spies; scouts; and scouts and guides. Soldiers and civilians in these jobs were often described as performing "secret service" or "special duty." All went into (or lived in) enemy territory, and observed and reported on enemy strengths (numbers) and military activities. Most spies and scouts were compensated at that time either regularly or "by the report." In any case, on both sides, they had the exciting but dubious distinction of betraying their own countries for ostensibly good purposes.



*Figure 2 Scouts and Guides, Army of the Potomac:*

It is not known how, when or on what basis John Howard Skinker (most frequently referred to by Federal authorities as "Howard Skinker") first engaged the Union Army with his offer to collect information and intelligence for them. What is certain at this point is that he was highly regarded by the Union Army intelligence leadership and especially effective in providing intelligence and counterintelligence information on Confederate activities in western Stafford and Fauquier Counties.

Stafford was a fertile ground for intelligence operations by *both* sides. Spying and scouting for the Confederacy, begun in the year of Confederate occupation from April 1861-April 1862, if not before, was already a "cottage industry" in the county. Within a year, Federal soldiers spoke in expansive terms about the abilities of the citizens to provide the Rebels with information on a wide range of Union activities. The Union forces would have equal or greater needs of intelligence when they entered the county in April 1862 and through three subsequent major Federal occupations. 1

#### *Who was John Howard Skinker of "Oakley"?*

The bulk of what is currently known of Skinker's espionage and counterintelligence work is derived from Edwin C. Fishel's *The Secret War For The Union: The Untold Story of Military*

*Intelligence in the Civil War*, (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1996). Genealogical data inform us that he was born in 1814 at "Oakley" and died on November 18, 1867. He was the son of Samuel Hampson Skinker (1783-1856) and Margaret Wilson Julian Skinker (1803-1863), also of "Oakley," and the brother of Thomas Julian Skinker (1819-1900). Fishel relates that, in the 1860 Census, the family owned \$23,000 in real and personal property and 23 slaves. Brother Thomas owned nine slaves at that time. Thomas had lived in Clarke County in 1850 with his wife's wealthy family; in the 1860 Census he was listed in Stafford County; later he would live in Fauquier County. 2

Samuel and Margaret had at least 10 other children: Louisa Virginia Skinker (?-1886); Mary Ann Skinker (1804-?); Margaretta Julian Skinker (1805-1878); Lucy E. Skinker (1807-1896); William Julian Skinker (1808-?); Samuel Wilson Skinker (1810-1884); Caroline Frances Skinker (1812-1892); Maria Fisher Skinker (1815-1845); and Martha Hampson Skinker (1820-1856). A son named Knox was also reported. Those, plus Thomas and John, would bring the number to as high as 13 children.

### ***Brother versus Brother? Cousin versus Cousin?***

The most remarkable facet of John Howard Skinker's family during the Civil War was that his brother Thomas Julian Skinker (1819-1900) and cousin William Keith Skinker (1839-1918) were apparently loyal Confederate cavalymen in two of the Army of Northern Virginia's best cavalry regiments.

Thomas J. Skinker was a private in Company A, "Stafford Rangers," of the 9th Virginia Cavalry. Robert K. Krick's regimental history of the 9th lists his record as enlisting on March 10, 1862, and that he was absent sick from May 1862 to August 1863. On May 17, 1863, he was taken prisoner in Stafford County and held in Old Capitol Prison until paroled on June 12 of that year. Returning to the 9th, he participated in the 1864 Overland Campaign. There he was wounded on May 12, 1864, and was "absent sick" during the regiment's final known muster on October 6, 1864. Krick adds that, after the war, such was his hatred, Thomas never again crossed the Potomac River into "Yankeedom" for the rest of his life. 3 .

Later studies in Confederate intelligence work, especially William A Tidwell, James O. Hall and David W. Gaddy in *Come Retribution* 1988 and Tidwell's *April '65* (1995), raise Thomas's otherwise unremarkable and low-key service record to new, higher levels of interest. The 9th Virginia Cavalry, in addition to "scouting" and normal missions, was the regiment most involved in Confederate secret service activities and what would be referred to today as special operations. In this regiment, whether specified or not, prolonged absences often signaled "secret service" duties. Thomas's capture in Stafford and incarceration in Old Capitol Prison (where intelligence operatives and disloyal citizens landed rather than prisoner-of-war camps like Point Lookout in Maryland) and his rapid release a month later are highly indicative. Further, all of his "absent sick" periods coincide with the periods in which Federal troops heavily occupied Stafford, when Confederate cavalry chief J.E.B. Stuart's (who managed the military spies and scouts) intelligence interest in the county was greatest. Finally, Thomas's highly "unreconstructed" postwar attitudes suggest devotion to "the lost cause."

The idea of brother fighting brother in our Civil War is certainly not unprecedented. The question here, however, reflecting on Thomas's likely intelligence work, is: What are the chances of two brothers on opposite sides conducting spying activities for their respective sides in the same area at the same times?

The Civil War record of his cousin, William Keith Skinker, Company H, "Black Horse Troop," 4th Virginia Cavalry presents a contrast as a more typical cavalryman's story. Born on September 22, 1839, he was 5' 8" tall with a ruddy complexion and dark hair and hazel eyes. He enlisted on April 25, 1861. Taken prisoner (incarceration place is unknown) in November 1862, he too was soon exchanged. From March to April 1864, he was absent from his unit on horse detail. That horse (presumably) was killed on June 1, 1864, in the area of Cold Harbor. He was paid the typical inflated price at that time of \$1,600 for his horse. He was paroled at war's end in Winchester on May 4, 1865. William died on May 27, 1918 at Pignut Mountain, and is buried in Warrenton Cemetery. With such a known record, William's occasional "scouting" is possible; however, was most likely at least a "source" for John Howard Skinker's "Black Horse Troop" reporting. 4

### ***John Howard Skinker's Wartime Activities***

John Howard Skinker's surprising Civil War spying career for the Union lasted at least through the First (April-September 1862) and Second (November 1862-June 1863) Federal Occupations of Stafford, and there is some evidence of continued service into 1864. Fishel drew on primary sources -- particularly the Files of the Bureau of Military Information and Secret Service Accounts, both in the National Archives; and the Major General Joseph Hooker Papers in the Huntington Library, San Marino, California. Fishel's materials have been supplemented by various information from other, more accessible on-line sources located since 1996.

### ***First Federal Occupation of Stafford (April-September 1862)***

Although it cannot be ruled out that he might have spied on Confederates in Stafford from April 1861-April 1862, it appears now that his spying and scouting activities began during this period, which commenced the interactions between the Union Army and the people of Stafford.

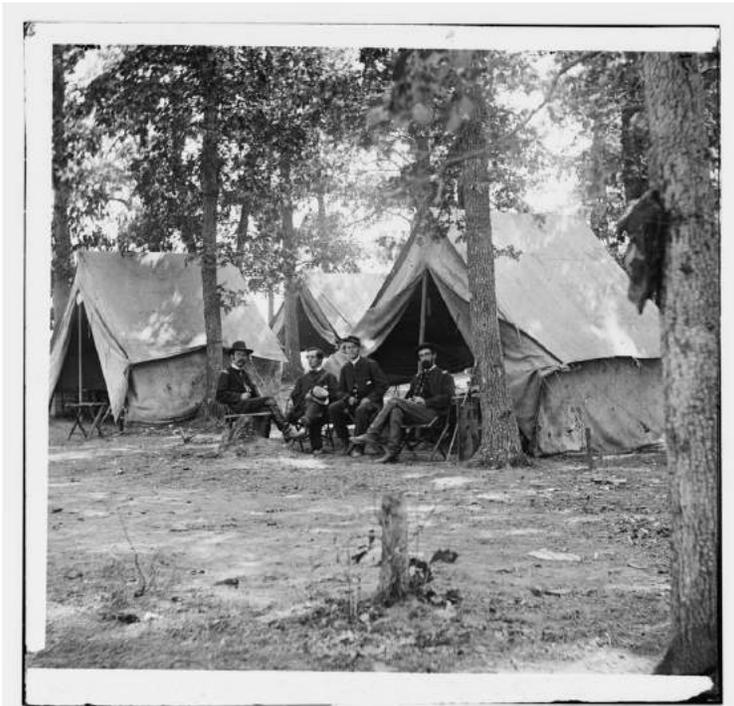
Less is currently known of the substance of his espionage at this period than either its results and effects. He received, per Fishel, ringing endorsements from Union Generals John F. Reynolds, Christopher C. Augur, and Thomas L. Kane, as well as from Colonel Thomas C. Devin, 6th New York Cavalry. Brigadier General Marsena R. Patrick, a brigade commander during the first occupation and famous as provost marshal general from then throughout the rest of the war, listed him as *Schinker* (thus pronounced "Shinker") in his diary. At first it would seem unlikely that a slaveholding planter might work with the Federal forces. However, the Union side at all levels of rank was filled (actually about half the Union Army) with pro-slavery or slavery-tolerating or slavery-limiting Union Democrats operating on the initial premise that the Southern leaders had led their people astray into secession and war. Southern people were thus generally treated in a conciliatory way within the bounds of the laws of war and existing regulations. Oddly, Southerners, especially Staffordians, having almost unanimously departed the Union of their fathers, unflinchingly and unfailingly expected to be treated with the rights of American citizens by Federal troops. Only the passage of oceans of blood, time and experience interacting with the Southerners would reveal how deep and firm were the roots of secession and the reality that slavery was hopelessly ingrained in the nascent Confederate nation.

McDowell's Department of the Rappahannock in the spring and summer of 1862 provided ample fodder for intelligence and counterintelligence work by occupying space between Washington and the Peninsula Campaign. By reinforcing McClellan to the south, and dispatching commands and units to the 1862 Shenandoah Valley Campaign to the west, these covered a wide area. As

previously noted, Skinker primarily and most effectively operated in western Stafford and Fauquier Counties.

Of this period, Fishel relates he was the: "leader of an existing active group of Union agents" and was "John Howard Skinker, a planter and slaveholder in Stafford County, across the Rappahannock from Fredericksburg." (Some of his testimonials might refer to the later, Second Federal Occupation of Stafford, but all refer to his Stafford service.) Fishel continues: "Without assurance of compensation, Skinker had done a great deal of information-gathering himself, and had "employed friends to go where he could not." It further remarks that he had faced danger, losing two horses --- one killed and another disabled while supporting McDowell's troops in May and June 1862, and during the 2nd Manassas battles in August and early September 1862. General Reynolds' endorsement was particularly effusive, describing Skinker as the "truest, boldest and most deserving Union man I have ever known -- always regarding property and even life itself as nothing compared to the duty he owed to the Constitution and the Union."

He was not seeking martyrdom, however. Fishel continues that, in September 1862 Skinker departed Stafford with the Union forces and took refuge in Washington, D.C. That November he received \$1,107 for his past espionage services and expenses, an extraordinary amount for the time. Skinker for his part did not return to what he accurately perceived as hostile environs in Stafford during the Fredericksburg battle and "Mud March." He remained there in the capital until March 8, 1863, and thus rendered no service to Burnside during his entire command period of the Army of the Potomac (November 5, 1862, to January 24, 1863).



*Figure 3 Principal leaders of the Bureau of Military Information (BMI), Army of the Potomac*

*Second Federal Occupation of Stafford (November 1862-June 1863)*

When Skinker returned in March he was working for an entirely new and different intelligence structure -- America's first all-source military intelligence organization, dubbed the Bureau of

Military Information or BMI. A spying network had evolved to complement the cavalry reconnaissance and scouts; aeronautical balloon corps; "reliable contrabands" (the latter a generic term for all fugitive slaves); deserters and other line crossers; signals collectors; interrogators; provost troops; infantry pickets; loyal Unionists; and technical staffs. Besides Skinker in Stafford, there was Jackson Harding who lived between U.S. Mine Ford and Banks's Ford. In Spotsylvania they had Isaac Silver and Ebenezer McGee. The newly formed Bureau of Military Information now had, in addition to Ernest Yager of Washington, Joseph Humphreys (former civilian telegraph operator), and George S. Smith of Culpeper, a good class of military scouts, mostly from the 3rd Indiana Cavalry: Milton Kline, Daniel Cole, and Daniel Plew. Additional scouts transferred from other branches and units: Mordecai Hunnicutt (Ohio infantry), Henry Dodd (Ohio artillery), and D. G. Otto (New York cavalry). There was an African-American element of the BMI as well. Dabney Walker, originally of Spotsylvania, handled Fredericksburg agents (including his wife and daughter) from Stafford. Louis Battail was also on the payroll. "Reliable contrabands" remained a staple of Union human intelligence. The BMI also had new assets in counterintelligence and operational security denying Confederate intelligence information on the Federals inside their 250 square mile perimeter in Stafford and King George Counties. Skinker seems to have played an important role in those activities as well. These Union activities were pointed toward trying to determine Confederate movements and action preparatory to the Second Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville offensives. They also increasingly focused on denying Confederates intelligence on the vast Union force.

Fishel relates that Skinker and George Smith were the most highly paid agents/agent handlers of the BMI at \$5 per day. Skinker's value increased through his abilities to determine the true sentiments of and to vouch for the Unionists from whom the Bureau might receive information. Fishel adds, or at least suggests, that when Skinker returned from Washington on March 8th, 1863, he was able to gain immediate information from his brother Thomas, home on sick leave. In fact many of his reports at this point were about the Thomas's 9th Virginia Cavalry and Cousin William's 4th Virginia Cavalry. It can also not be ruled out that he obtained information traceable to Thomas and William from his numerous male and female siblings.

On March 11th, John Howard's first mission upriver on the Rappahannock in western Stafford revealed carelessness on the Federal picket line between Poplar Road and the Woodcutting Road (now Mountain View Road). Such gaps were exploited readily by Confederate cavalry. Such information was found more useful and reliable to Hooker's headquarters than the less accurate and hearsay data Skinker provided about Lee's strengths and dispositions across the Rappahannock. He also reported at this time that the Black Horse Cavalry (in which his cousin William served in Company H) had captured one of the BMI's scouts (it turned out later to be New Yorker D. G. Otto) at Morrisville in Fauquier County. Like all human intelligence agents, his reporting was not always of extraordinary value. Through no fault of Skinker's, Fishel adds that his hearsay reporting had led to an erroneously high estimate of Confederate strengths, as cited by BMI analysts. As the spring offensive loomed on the horizon, Skinker usefully reported *nine people* (no further information at this time) above the Rappahannock who should be arrested and imprisoned prior to Hooker's impending western movements. He noted a decrease in Confederate scouting, and again noted the Black Horse Cavalry as involved in reconnaissance. A "Wm. N. Thom" in Fauquier was highly suspected by Skinker as he had been pursued as a Confederate deserter, and had suddenly appeared "at home" perfectly positioned for espionage activities. William N. Thom is not listed *per se* in available public or private (subscription) data bases available to the author. However, Historical Data Systems lists a "William A. Thom" as a 42 year-old surgeon assigned to Chimborazo Hospital, Richmond from 1861-1865 and some undated

service in the 39th Virginia Infantry as a surgeon with no reference to any desertion or a residence location.

Fishel's account of Skinker's spying ends with an astonishing enclosure. On April 8th (mailed April 15th) -- a mere 19 days before the beginning of Hooker's western Stafford movements prior to the Chancellorsville Campaign -- he penned a letter directly to the Confederates:

Oakley, April 8, 1863

Mr. Scott George,  
Sir

I have just learned, from what I deem a reliable source, that you and other members of the Black Horse Cavalry, are lurking about, in this neighborhood, for the purpose of taking the horse I ride, and me with it, if I put on any airs.

I give you fair notice, that if the horse is taken, either from my stable or from me, I will immediately report the fact to Hd. Qrs. and make application for permission to bring out a Cav. Force sufficient to take *five* of best horses I can find and arrest *five* citizens, both to be held until the horse is returned.

Your threat to arrest me, I scorn.

Respty,

Jno. Howard Skinker



*Figure 4 Colonel and Brevet Brigadier General George H. Sharpe, chief of the Bureau of Military Information (BMI), Army of the Potomac*

In an equally astonishing understatement, Fishel sarcastically adds: "Colonel Sharpe [chief of BMI] could have wished that Agent Skinker was not so ready to advertise his Northern sympathies." The only possible, somewhat feeble explanation may have been that Skinker was convinced that Chancellorsville and Second Fredericksburg would bring victory in the Eastern Theater.

Stiles's 4th Virginia Cavalry regimental history lists no "Scott George" per se. It does list Wingfield [Winfield?] Scott George as serving in Company A, 4th Virginia Cavalry, and enlisting on April 23, 1861 [six days after Virginia's secession] in Brewster. His further record is intriguing in light of this association: "Scout for Genl. Stuart; captured 9/30/63 on Potomac River; Old Capitol Prison 10/6/63; exchanged 2/18/64; KIA Trevilian Station." Clearly he fit the secret service role suggested in Skinker's April 8, 1863, letter. If his name was actually Winfield Scott George, he may have been related to the Scotts of Falmouth's "Clearview."

### *Service during Grant's Overland Campaign in 1864?*

Peter G. Tsouras, editor, *Scouting for Grant and Meade: The Memoir of Sergeant Knight, Chief of Scouts, Army of the Potomac*, (New York: Skyhorse Publications, 2014), lists John Howard Skinker among the agents of the BMI in the Army of the Potomac. He is listed as serving after March 8, 1863 (the date he returned from Washington). It is not at all clear whether this list fully pertained to Grant's 1864-1865 period in command of all the armies.

### *War's End and Posterity*

Little was currently known of Skinker's postwar life or early death on November 18, 1867. As with most questions pertaining to Stafford history, Jerrilynn Eby (MacGregor) was the first to be consulted. In this case she called on Nancy Moore of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, who found several obituaries (*Virginia Herald*, Monday, November 25, 1867; and that one referenced the *National Intelligencer* of November 23rd. The *Fredericksburg Ledger* of Friday, November 29, 1867 [page 3, column 1]). They related that "Howard Skinker" and "J. Howard Skinker," and "formerly of Stafford" County, had died in Washington, D.C., and that "During the late war Mr. S. took sides with the Federal Government, and served as a Staff officer under Gen. Patrick, with the rank of Colonel."

A considerable number of information gaps remain. These will initially be attacked by a more thorough examination of Skinker's specific papers in the National Archives. <sup>5</sup> He is also referenced in Preston family papers in the Virginia Historical Society in connection with former U.S. Congressman Samuel Chilton. <sup>6</sup>

The nature of his brief postwar life and relationships with his family and community are among the chief items of interest. The openness of his service for the Union and his being "formerly" of Stafford County, certainly suggest he had permanently moved to Washington. The previous statement of his brother Thomas's postwar animus for "Yankeedom" add to the feeling that Howard Skinker experienced that special variety of Virginia Hell: separation from family, friends and scenes of youth. This fate was shared with another Civil War Staffordian, Moncure Daniel Conway. Interestingly, although Conway's primary wartime contributions were as a Southern abolitionist writer and speaker in the U.S. and Great Britain, he too had early volunteered to aid Federal intelligence through his knowledge of the geography and people. Those who loved the American Union more than their native Virginia or the South paid a heavy price. Moncure Conway would die in 1907 in Europe and be buried in New York (Kensico Cemetery, Valhalla) with his wife and son. Howard Skinker's final resting place is currently unknown.

## End Notes

- 1 Homer D. Musselman, *Stafford County in the Civil War: The Virginia Civil War Battles and Leaders Series*, (Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1995) 1st Edition. Page 49, etc.
- 2 Jerrilynn Eby [MacGregor], *They Called Stafford Home: The Development of Stafford, Virginia, from 1600 until 1865*, (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 1997). pp 237, 343-344; and *Land of Hogs and Wildcats: People and Places of Lower Stafford County, Virginia* (Berwyn Heights, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2013) pp 48, 65, 78. 1860 Census/Ancestry.com,
- 3 Robert K. Krick *9th Virginia Cavalry: The Virginia Regimental Histories Series*, (Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1982) 4th Edition.
- 4 Kenneth L. Stiles, *4th Virginia Cavalry: The Virginia Regimental Histories Series*, (Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1985) 2nd Edition.
5. NARA, BMI Files. RG 393, Part I, Entry 3980; and NARA, Secret Service Accounts, RG 110, Entry 95.
- .6. John Howard Skinker is cited in the Preston Family Papers, VHS connected with Samuel Chilton -- who also died in 1867, but in January.

### Membership Application

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Please mail completed form and check for either: \$15 (Annual Dues); \$25 (Family Annual Dues); \$5 (Student) or \$200 (Life Member) to:

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Stafford County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1664  
Stafford, VA 22555

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**Next Meeting: Thursday, August 20, 2015 at 7:30 PM at Stafford's George Gordon Government Center. A Power Point talk by historian Al Conner on "Civil War Food: See, Hear about, and Taste." SPECIAL REFRESHMENTS WILL BE A SAMPLING OF CIVIL WAR DESSERTS.**

**Stafford County  
Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1664  
Stafford, Virginia 22555**

**STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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